

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST

Forest Order No. 15-14-10

French Fire Closure

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to provide for public safety, the following acts are prohibited within the Sierra National Forest. This Order is effective from August 29, 2014, until the French Fire is declared out.

1. Going into or being upon National Forest System land within the French Fire Closure Area. The boundary of the French Fire closure begins at the intersection of Forest Road No. 4S81 and Forest Road No. 8S03, then continues east along Forest Road No. 8S03 to its intersection with the San Joaquin River (Madera/Fresno County Line), then continues north along the San Joaquin River to its intersection with Forest Road No. 6S25, then continues north along Forest Road No. 6S25 to its intersection with the West Fork of Chiquito Creek, then continues north and west along the West Fork of Chiquito Creek to its intersection with Forest Road No. 6S52, then continues due southwest to the northwest corner of Township 7 South, Range 24 East, Section 18, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian (MDBM), then continues south along the western edge of Township 7 South, Range 24 East, Section 18, Section 19, and Section 30, MDBM, then continues east along the southern edge of Township 7 South, Range 24 East, Section 30, MDBM, then continues south along the eastern edge of Township 7 South, Range 24 East, Section 31, MDBM, and Township 8 South, Range 24 East, Section 5, MDBM, to its intersection with Forest Road No. 8S70, then continues south along Forest Road No. 8S70 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 8S43, then continues south along Forest Road No. 8S43 to its intersection with Forest Road No. 4S81Q, then continues east along Forest Road No. 4S81Q to its intersection with Forest Road No. 4S81, then continues south along Forest Road No. 4S81 back to the starting point, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.53(e).
2. Being on any National Forest System road within the French Fire Closure Area, except Forest Road No. 4S81, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.54(e).
3. Being on any National Forest System trail within the French Fire Closure Area, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.55(a).

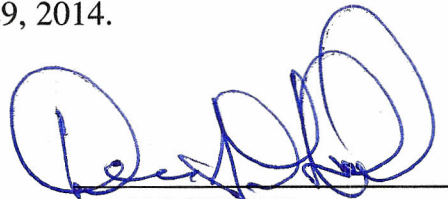
Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited actor omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

These prohibitions are in addition to the general prohibitions contained in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Executed in Clovis, California on August 29, 2014.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dean Gould', is written over a horizontal line.

DEAN GOULD
Forest Supervisor

This Order supersedes Order No. 15-14-08, dated August 21, 2014.



File Code: 2670

Date: August 29, 2014

Route To: File

Subject: Forest Order – French Fire Closure (15-14-10) 

From: Dean Gould, Forest Supervisor

This document explains my rationale and the regulatory basis for implementing a closure order for the French Fire on the Sierra National Forest.

On the morning of July 28, 2014 at 5:45am Shuteye Lookout reported a single column of smoke where the “French Trail” crosses the Rock Creek drainage on the Bass Lake Ranger District. On July 29, 2014 the French Fire had grown from its original estimate size of 60 acres to over 1,500. The French Fire has grown to an estimated 13,838 acres by 8:00am on August 28, 2014.

The purpose of this closure is to provide for public safety and facilitate fire suppression efforts. We are shrinking the closure area because the fire is more under control and it is safe for members of the public to access a portion of the previously-closed area. This restriction is necessary for the purposes of ensuring public safety until the wildfire can be managed to protect the public. In addition, there is limited road access to the area creating a potential hazard for visitors to become trapped. Closure of the current fire area is necessary to help ensure that no one is injured within the fire perimeter. Except for Forest Road No. 4S81, the National Forest System roads and trails within the burned area will also be closed due to fire suppression activities, tree snags and unstable soils that create a hazard to the public. Forest Road 4S81 has been cleared of hazard trees and other debris and is now safe for travel. This closure will remain in effect until the fire is fully suppressed.

I have concluded that this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act. This action falls within the category identified in 36 CFR 220.6(d)(1) – prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety – and does not require documentation in a decision memo, decision notice, or record of decision. I have determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.



French Fire
Area, Road & Trail Closure
Forest Order Number 15-14-10

